IN THE CLAIMS:

Please substitute the following claims for the same-numbered claims in the application:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method of monitoring events in a database, said method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

storing in ~~the~~ said database at least one database rule;

mapping temporal constraints of an event of the database rule to corresponding temporal events;

changing ~~the~~ said temporal constraints associated with the temporal events based upon temporal constraints for related events of ~~the~~ said database rule; ~~and~~

registering alarms associated with a start and end of a lifespan of each temporal event;

selectively deploying and selectively permanently removing the temporal events from ~~the~~ said database based upon the changed temporal constraints[[.]]; and

upon reaching said end of said lifespan of said each temporal event, permanently removing from said database said alarm associated with the permanently removed temporal event.

2.   (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of~~ removing from the database temporal events that cannot evaluate as true.

3.   (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of~~ limiting the lifespan of an event to the overlapping period of the lifespan of a parent event.

4.   (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of~~ changing the lifespan of an event to omit periods in which the event cannot evaluate as true.

5.   (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of~~ assigning a lifespan of an event having an undefined lifespan as the lifespan of a parent event.

6.   (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of~~ propagating the lifespan or context of the parent node to all children nodes of the parent node.

7.   (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein a lifespan of an event is expressed as a predetermined duration of time.

8.   (Original) The method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the lifespan is dependent upon the associated event.

9.   (Original) The method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the lifespan ends at a predetermined time, or recurs at a predetermined period of time.

10.   (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of~~ combining events using a sequence operator to form a composite event having a time span.

11.   (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 7, further comprising ~~the step of~~

associating a lifespan with the sequence operator.

12.   (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of~~ storing a database rule as an event-condition-action (ECA) rule.

13.   (Currently Amended) A database recorded on a computer storage medium comprising:

~~software code means for mapping temporal constraints of an event of a database rule to corresponding temporal events;~~

~~software code means for changing the temporal constraints associated with the temporal events based upon temporal constraints for related events of the database rule; and~~

~~software code means for selectively deploying and selectively removing the temporal events from the database based upon the changed temporal constraints.~~

software code means for storing in said database at least one database rule;

software code means for mapping temporal constraints of an event of the database rule to corresponding temporal events;

software code means for changing said temporal constraints associated with the temporal events based upon temporal constraints for related events of said database rule;

software code means for registering alarms associated with a start and end of a lifespan of each temporal event;

software code means for selectively deploying and selectively permanently removing the temporal events from said database based upon the changed temporal constraints; and

software code means for, upon reaching said end of said lifespan of said each temporal event, permanently removing from said database said alarm associated with the permanently

removed temporal event.

14.   (Currently Amended) A ~~computer~~ system ~~that stores a~~ for monitoring events in a
database, said system comprising:

~~means for mapping temporal constraints of an event of a database rule to corresponding~~
~~temporal events;~~

~~means for changing the temporal constraints associated with the temporal events based~~
~~upon temporal constraints for related events of the database rule; and~~

~~means for selectively deploying and selectively removing the temporal events from the~~
~~database based upon the changed temporal constraints.~~

means for storing in said database at least one database rule;

means for mapping temporal constraints of an event of the database rule to corresponding
temporal events;

means for changing said temporal constraints associated with the temporal events based
upon temporal constraints for related events of said database rule;

means for registering alarms associated with a start and end of a lifespan of each
temporal event;

means for selectively deploying and selectively permanently removing the temporal
events from said database based upon the changed temporal constraints; and

means for, upon reaching said end of said lifespan of said each temporal event,
permanently removing from said database said alarm associated with the permanently removed
temporal event.

15.   (Currently Amended) A ~~computer program product~~ program storage device readable by computer, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by said computer to perform a method of monitoring events in a database, said method comprising:

~~software code means for mapping temporal constraints of an event of a database rule to corresponding temporal events;~~

~~software code means for changing the temporal constraints associated with the temporal events based upon temporal constraints for related events of the database rule; and~~

~~software code means for selectively deploying and selectively removing the temporal events from the database based upon the changed temporal constraints.~~

storing in said database at least one database rule;

mapping temporal constraints of an event of the database rule to corresponding temporal events;

changing said temporal constraints associated with the temporal events based upon temporal constraints for related events of said database rule;

registering alarms associated with a start and end of a lifespan of each temporal event;

selectively deploying and selectively permanently removing the temporal events from said database based upon the changed temporal constraints; and

upon reaching said end of said lifespan of said each temporal event, permanently removing from said database said alarm associated with the permanently removed temporal event.

16.   (New) The method of claim 10, further comprising using a separate device external to said database to detect the combined events.

17. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said event consists of an instantaneous and atomic point of occurrence within an application that affects the state of said database.

18. (New) The program storage device as claimed in claim 15, wherein said method further comprises combining events using a sequence operator to form a composite event having a time span.

19. (New) The program storage device of claim 18, wherein said method further comprises using a separate device external to said database to detect the combined events.

20. (New) The program storage device of claim 15, wherein said event consists of an instantaneous and atomic point of occurrence within an application that affects the state of said database.